

Argument Against Initiative Proposition No. 17

This act should be overwhelmingly defeated for many reasons, space limiting discussion here to three only.

It creates the Naturopathic Association of California and its governing body, the board of governors, elected by and from among, the licensees of this board.

It then (Sec. 3) completely removes this association from all control by the Governor, or the legislature, or the courts, except in jurisdictional matters, and puts into the hands of the board of governors the absolute autocratic control of the entire practice of "naturopathy," so-called, and its practitioners.

The only possible way that the people will ever have to exercise the slightest control over "naturopaths" to whom the act gives (Sec. 63) "all of the rights and privileges of any and all other practicing physicians of any school or class or division in the treatment of any and all diseases, injuries, deformities"—and equal rights with all physicians in all partly or wholly tax-supported institutions and under the "workmen's compensation insurance" laws, will be by future initiative acts. The expense and uncertainty of an initiative act makes any control over a special group almost impossible.

The statement that this act is similar to the State Bar Act under which lawyers elect a board of governors, is wrong. The State Bar Act was passed, and can be and has been repeatedly amended, by the Legislature, and all of the fundamental acts of the board are subject to approval by the Supreme Court.

The act ostensibly sets up educational requirements for licensees, but puts absolute control of them under the autocratic board of governors and, regardless of any proponent's assertions, even upon the most favorable basis of comparison these requirements are less than 60 per cent of those demanded by the State for regularly licensed physicians.

It further (Sec. 62) copies only nine of the twenty-three definitions of "unprofessional conduct" cited in the State Medical Practice Act and limits the punishment for any of these nine to suspension of the "naturopathic" license for one year, regardless of previous offenses.

Since among the fourteen definitions omitted are (1) procuring or offering to procure an abortion; (2) wilfully betraying professional confidences of patients; and (3) habitual intemperance or excessive use of narcotics, it is evident that proponents of the act intend to have little discipline and to protect their own misbehaving naturopaths, and not the public.

This act is

1. Unnecessary, because drugless practitioners can now be licensed under existing law;
2. Vicious, in that it is an attempt by a special group of inferior education seeking special privilege, to secure an autocratic self-government new to California, to practically remove itself from any control by the people and to obtain rights and privileges heretofore granted only to those meeting the highest requirements set by the Legislature; and
3. Dangerous to public health and to the sick of California in that it will loose upon the sick and injured a horde of poorly trained "naturopaths" with all of such rights and privileges.

Vote "No" on this measure.

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PRESIDENT FRANKLIN DELANO ROOSEVELT'S TRIBUTE TO SCIENTIFIC MEDICINE*

Text of the Mayo Presentation Address

I hope that the people of Rochester will not feel limited in their pride of possession when the nation which I have the honor to represent claims the right to call Doctor Will and Doctor Charles by the good word "neighbor." You are beloved at home and abroad, and a world deeply in your debt gives you inadequate returns in external honors and distinctions. But your true distinction is in the simple fact that

* The tribute given by President Franklin D. Roosevelt to Doctors William J. and Charles H. Mayo, each an ex-president of the American Medical Association, was extended through them to the medical profession of the United States. On that account this appreciation of modern medicine by the President of the United States, in his Rochester address of August 8, is here reprinted.

you have put men's sense of brotherhood and interdependence into a setting and have given it a new meaning.

For fifty years you have given tireless, skillful and unselfish service here in this state and city. These fifty years, the span of your medical practice, have covered probably the most remarkable period in the history of science. You have seen practically all of modern medicine and surgery come into being. The rise of research, dating back to the days when you began your practice, has revolutionized the diagnosis, prevention and treatment of disease.

The development of the branches of this science has revolutionized not only the science of medicine, but the entire field of effort that we sometimes call public welfare. You have seen surgical technique become one of the finest of all the arts of man. You have seen the development of the science of public health, which has brought the gospel of health to the school and clinic. You have seen the growth of hospitals, the creation of foundations for medical research, and a resolution in the teaching of medicine. You have seen isolated clinics come to be part of great universities, an association resulting in the enrichment of both.

But, despite the progress that you have seen and that you have helped to accomplish, the restless spirit of science prompts you to see new visions of achievement. As you have pointed out so often in your predictions of what humanity may expect from medical science in the future, progress is only at its beginning. In the further development of the curative art, in the discovery of new means for the prevention of disease, in the creation of methods by which all of the people may be made aware of the knowledge of hygiene and public health developed in the laboratory clinic, your vision offers promise of a greater nation and a happier people.

You have helped to give to the medical profession a unique place in the community and the nation. By reason of his special opportunities, the physician has the occasion to perform a service in his community far beyond the bounds of his own professional duty. His infinitely complex relationship with the people of the community enables him to lead them in standards of ethical right which may profoundly affect human conduct in general.

For this reason the science of medicine comes to concern itself with many things besides the healing of the sick. It has been broadly interpreted as a major factor in the science of human welfare. The problems of disease and the circumstances related to it are to the science of modern medicine only the sequel of a long train of social cause and effect. Medicine has taught us how important it is to look beyond the result to the cause, not only of human sickness, but of those social disorders out of which individual difficulties necessarily arise.

Those of us who are concerned with the problems of government and of economics are under special obligation to modern medicine in two very important respects. In the first place, it has taught us that with patience and application and skill and courage it is possible for human beings to control and improve conditions under which they live.

It has taught us how science may be made the servant of a richer, more complete common life. And it has taught us more than that, because from it we have learned lessons in the ethics of human relationship—how devotion to the public good, unselfish service, never-ending consideration of human needs, are in themselves conquering forces.

Democracy looks to the day when these virtues will be required and expected of those who serve the public officially and unofficially. Modern medicine has set an exalted example. It has shown the way for us all.

You whom we honor today have rendered the highest form of patriotic service during the battles of the World War, but, even more than that, you deserve the nation's thanks for the national service that you have rendered throughout your lives.